

**TORRINGTON
RURAL DISTRICT
1967**

**REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Chief Public Health Inspector**

**For the Year ending
31st December, 1967.**

GREAT TORRINGTON:

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TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the Torrington Rural District for 1967

By

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Medical Officer of Health,

and

F. G. GANE, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :—

Dr. E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :—

F. G. GANE, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor :—

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector :—

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Council Chambers,
South Street,
Torrington.
Telephone Torrington 2250.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the Health and
Sanitary conditions of the area.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS.

May, 1968.

Torrington Rural District

1967

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	79,803
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	7,300
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,635
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£112,045
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£469

VITAL STATISTICS

Area Comparability Factors	...	Births 1.19	Deaths 0.92
Live Births	...	...	90
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	12.3
Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	...	...	14.6
Illegitimate Live births percent of total Live Births	...	...	8.8%
Still Births	...	...	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	22
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	92
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	...	...	2
Infant Mortality Rates:-			
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	22
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	24.4
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	Nil
Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	11.1
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	11.1
Peri Natal Mortality Rate (Still Births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	...	...	33
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	...	...	Nil
Number of Deaths	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	Nil
Deaths	...	...	82
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	11.2
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	...	...	10.3

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS C

Cause of Death						Sex	Total All Age
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...		M	—
						F	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...		M	2
						F	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...		M	—
						F	5
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...		M	3
						F	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System...	...	...	...	...		M	7
						F	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	M	8
						F	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...		M	1
						F	—
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	M	4
						F	7
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	...	M	2
						F	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	M	2
						F	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...		M	—
						F	2
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...		M	3
						F	9
All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	M	—
						F	4
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	M	35
						F	47

LIFE DURING 1967 IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

[illegible]

POPULATION BIRTHS and DEATHS for the
RURAL DISTRICT since 1956

YEAR	POPULATION	LIVE BIRTHS	DEATHS
1956	7392	119	136
1957	7150	105	79
1958	7160	45	75
1959	7130	42	59
1960	7130	28	48
1961	7190	52	46
1962	7190	97	91
1963	7200	86	96
1964	7280	105	86
1965	7280	104	89
1966	7300	111	100
1967	7300	90	82

BIRTHS

During the year there were 90 live births as compared with 111 in 1966.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	42	40	82
Illegitimate	5	3	8
Still Births			
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1

DEATHS

The total number of deaths within the Rural District during the year was 82 as compared with 100 in 1966. There were 2 infant deaths under the age of 1 year.

Male—35 Female—47 Total—82

There were no deaths of women in childbirth during the year.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 13 deaths from cancer during the year.

		Males	Females
Stomach	...	—	1
Lung and Bronchus	...	2	—
Breast	...	—	5
Uterus	...	—	—
Others	...	3	2

Infectious Diseases

A total of 60 infectious diseases were notified :-

Scarlet Fever	1
Acute Pneumonia	8
Measles	47
Dysentry	1
Erysipelas	1
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2

No lung tuberculosis cases were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

No instances of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

No compulsory removal of elderly persons from their homes under the above Act occurred during the year.

Brucella Abortus in Milk

Positive milk samples for Brucella Abortus Organisms were reported from 2 farms during the year. None of the milk was sold locally, but was pasteurised at the Torridge Vale Dairies. The farmers concerned were informed regarding the brucella organisms in the milk and advised to call in his own Veterinary Officer.

No cases of undulant fever in humans were brought to my knowledge during the year.

Annual Report of Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

DETAILS OF VISITS

Dwellings inspected under Housing & Public Health Acts	52
Re-inspections under Housing & Public Health Acts	44
Keeping of Animals	2
Offensive accumulations	25
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	11
Number of Rooms disinfected	—
Visits to Factories & Workshops	62
Visits to Bakehouses	9
Visits to Schools	—
Food Inspections (other than meat)	8
Visits to Food Preparing Premises (other than meat)	138
Number of Water Samples	26
Number of Milk Samples	1
Building Inspections under Bye-laws	1,316
Visits to Council Houses	657
Defective Drains	165
Drains examined	217
Plans investigated	406
Petroleum inspections	108
Dirty Houses	—
Sewage Works	488
Improvement Grants (No. of visits & re-visits)	464
Caravan Sites	105
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1965 inspections	34
Visits to council building sites	227
Visits to Refuse Tips	55
Deinfestations	—
Boarding Kennels	12
New Sewage Schemes	591
Noise Abatement	—
Advertisement Control	13
Swill Boiling Plants	1
Brucellosis Enquiries	—
Food Delivery Vehicles inspected	85
Dangerous structures	28
Building preservation surveys	26
Ice Cream samples	6

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. Part I of the Act.

1--INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. Non-Power	2	2	0	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority Power	31	25	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) Building sites etc.	35	35	3	—
TOTAL	68	62	7	NIL

2--CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	

Overcrowding (S.2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Insufficient	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL		...	7	5	...	...	NIL	NIL	NIL

OUTWORK—(Sections 133 and 134). Part VIII of the Act.

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)	27	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.						

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	....	....	....	....	52
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....				2
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....		50

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	46
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority	20
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Improvements carried out and nuisances abated :—

<i>External</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>				
Walls repaired	31
Roofs repaired	27
Guttering repaired	28
Downspouts repaired	22
Chimneys repaired	20
Water supply laid on houses	12
New pumps provided	—
Wells cleansed	1
Well steinings repaired	—
New lengths drain laid	111
Defective drains repaired	42
New inspection chambers	98
Septic tanks repaired	2
New septic tanks	17
New gullies	61
New W.C.'s	47
Water Supply laid on to W.C.'s	11
W.C. cisterns renewed	7
New washing accommodation	—
Outbuildings repaired	3

<i>Internal</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>
Walls replastered	31
Ceilings replastered	24
Windows repaired	31
Doors repaired	11
Floors repaired	21
Cooking appliances repaired or renewed	11
New sinks....	16
New sculleries	2
Baths installed	34
Food storage improved	22
Stairs repaired	12
Hot water systems fixed....	33

New Housing Accommodation

Number of new houses erected by local authority (Winkleigh 6: Shebbear 4.)	10
Number of new houses erected by private enterprise	36

Council Housing Programme

During the year 10 two bedroomed bungalows were completed and a further 12 were under construction. The Council now owns 231 houses and bungalows, and 27 garages.

Applications were received for :-

5 Discretionary Grants.

31 Standard Grants.

6 Discretionary Improvement grants were completed during the year bringing the total up to 183. In addition 34 standard grants were completed bringing the total up to 314.

The total expenditure to the end of the year was :—

Discretionary grants	£61,875
Standard grants	£44,167
	<hr/>
	£106,042

This means that 24% of properties in the district over 12 years old have now been improved.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Caravans

Residential caravans do not present much of a problem at the moment. There are only 3 licensed sites for single caravans. In addition there are a few individually sited vans within the curtilage of dwellings used by the occupiers as permitted under the Act. There are also 2 exempt sites used by the Caravan Club and the Camping Club but these appear to be little frequented. There are 3 licensed sites—one at Seckington, Winkleigh, one at Smytham, Little Torrington and one at High Bickington. In addition six individual caravans are licensed. In the case of the Winkleigh site there has been some illicit use for residential purposes in breach of the site licence and planning consent.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates a fortnightly refuse collection covering most of the area except for a few isolated farms and cottages. The vehicle used is a diesel-operated Karrier Gamecock manned by two collector-drivers. This is to be replaced with a Shelvoke & Drewry fore and aft tipper in 1968. The refuse is disposed of on three tips at the moment at Winkleigh, Shebbear and Roborough. The vehicle also collects the refuse from litter bins in the villages and on road-side lay-byes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The villages of Winkleigh, Shebbear, Sheepwash, Taddiport, St. Giles-in-the-Wood, Kingscott, Roborough, Petrockstowe, Merton, Yarnscombe, Stibb Cross, Little Torrington, Ashreigney and Hollacombe are now equipped with modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems. Work is approaching completion at Weare Giffard. Detailed plans have been submitted to the Ministry for Dolton. Other villages requiring schemes to complete the Council's programme are High Bickington, Langtree, Beaford, Riddlecombe and Frithelstock.

These villages have primitive sewage systems which are very unsatisfactory and give rise to frequent nuisances. Nuisance is also frequently caused by individual unsatisfactory septic tank effluent disposal and crude discharges. The progress of modernisation is much too slow for this atomic age, and a greater priority ought to be given to such vital matters.

WATER SUPPLIES

The area is very well served by the North Devon Water Board via a network of mains and all villages and hamlets are supplied. Only remote dwellings now rely on shallow wells for a supply.

The following new connections were made during the year :

62 Domestic	13 Trade
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The total number of premises now connected to the mains is :

1,828 Domestic	324 Trade
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(excluding farm houses)

There are no standpipes in the district.

The following is a list of the parishes showing the number of houses connected and an estimate of the population served :—

				<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of population served</i>
Alverdiscott	....	....	....	50	150
Ashreigney	....	....	....	100	300
Beaford	....	....	....	94	282
Buckland Filleigh	....	....	....	20	60
Dolton	.....	.....	.....	155	465
Dowland	....	....	....	18	54
Frithelstock	....	....	....	78	234
High Bickington	....	....	....	94	282
Huish	....	....	....	14	42
Huntshaw	....	....	....	31	93
Langtree	....	....	....	114	342
Little Torrington	....	....	....	69	207
Merton	....	....	....	92	276
Peters Marland	....	....	....	57	171
Petrockstowe	....	....	....	75	225
Roborough	....	....	....	40	120
St. Giles	....	....	....	125	375
Shebbear	....	....	....	149	447
Sheepwash	....	....	....	79	237
Weare Giffard	....	....	....	76	228
Winkleigh	....	....	....	287	861
Yarnscombe	....	....	....	47	141

The water is treated at the source to counteract plumbosolvency. Samples of the water are frequently taken by the Board's officials for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results are notified to the Department.

26 Samples of water were taken from private supplies and submitted for analysis, of which 8 were found to be completely satisfactory.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

In conjunction with Torrington Borough Council a full-time Operator is shared by the two authorities.

The following work was carried out in the Rural District during the year :—

No. of Refuse Tips and Sewage Works treated	....	27
No. of Visits to same	.... ....	104
No. of Private Premises treated	.... ....	165
No. of Visits to same	.... ....	1,219
No. of Business Premises and Farms treated	....	43
No. of Visits to same	.... ....	190
No. of Survey calls made	.... ....	1,643

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one gut scraping establishment in the district, associated with the Winkleigh Abattoir, and this is satisfactorily operated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering

There are two licensed slaughter houses in the district including an abattoir at Winkleigh. 100 per cent meat inspection is at present carried out. A full time resident meat inspector is in constant attendance.

TABLE A

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part
Figures in brackets are for 1966

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs and Goats	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1240 (1409)	502 (364)	384 (217)	50785 (47795)	9061 (13715)	— (—)
Number inspected	1240 (1409)	502 (364)	384 (217)	50785 (47795)	9061 (13715)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses con- demned....	5 (3)	14 (22)	65 (16)	628 (267)	27 (29)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	161 (447)	152 (155)	4 (3)	6894 (5285)	699 (2025)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tub- erculosis and Cysticerci	13.38 (31.87)	33.07 (48.63)	6.15 (8.76)	11.86 (11.62)	8.01 (14.98)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	— (—)	(—) (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (2)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	212 (118)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	2.35 (1.1)	— (—)
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	3 (2)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	3 (2)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE B

Summary of Meat Condemnations with cause and weight.

Food Condemned	Weight in lbs.
Due to Tuberculosis :	
Portions of 212 Pigs	2,395
Carcase and organs of 1 pig	107
	<hr/> 2,502 lbs.
	<hr/> <i>i.e.</i> 1ton 2cwts. 38lbs.
Due to Diseases other than Tuberculosis :	
Carcases and Organs of 5 Cattle	1299
Carcases and Organs of 14 Cows ...	6507
Carcases and Organs of 65 Calves	3166
Carcases and Organs of 628 Sheep	25480
Carcases and Organs of 27 Pigs	2430
Parts of 161 Cattle	2202
Parts of 152 Cows	2873
Parts of 4 Calves	20
Parts of 6894 Sheep	13997
Parts of 699 Pigs	2434
	<hr/> 60,408lbs.
	<hr/> <i>i.e.</i> 26 tons 19 cwts. 40 lbs.

Condemned meat was disposed of through trade channels for sterilisation.

TABLE C

Condemned Foods.

A food shop complete with stock was left unoccupied for over a year. After examination the following foodstuffs were surrendered for disposal:—

855 Packets of biscuits	140 Various tinned goods
144 lbs of flour	251 Packets of cereals
125 Bars & packets confectionery	17 Packets of cakes
42 lbs. of tea	156 lbs. of sugar
511 Packets various jellies, cake and pie mixes, packets of dried fruit, salt, coconut etc.	

Dampness, decomposition and rodent contamination being the main causes for surrender.

Other food surrendered.

3 tins Cooked Meat	2 tins Fish	1 jar Marmalade
1 bag Flour	10 tins Fruit	1 tin Animal food

THE FOOD HYGIENE (General) REGULATIONS 1960

The following is a list of food premises in the district :—

Type of Premises	No.	No. which comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. which comply with Regulation 19
Grocery and General Stores	30	29	30	30
Bakers	3	3	3	3
Butchers	4	4	4	4
Public Houses & Hotels	17	16	17	17
Cafes	6	6	6	6

22 Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. 138 visits to food premises were made during the year.

6 Ice cream samples taken, 3 not satisfactory.

LIQUID EGG (Pasteurisation) REGULATIONS, 1963.

There are no plants in the district.

POULTRY INSPECTIONS

There is one small establishment. Periodic visits are carried out as required.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

One swill boiling plant is operating in the district and has been licensed. Periodic visits are made.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

39 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

SLAUGHTERING LICENCES

16 licences were issued during the year to slaughtermen.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The following inspections have been carried out under the 1963 Act :-

Type of Premises	Registered in 1967	Total Registered	General Inspection
Offices	1	7	7
Retail Shops	—	15	15
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	—	1	1
Catering Establishments	—	1	1
Totals	1	24	24

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 34.

No certificates of exemption were issued during the year.

No accidents were reported during 1967.

PLANS

211 plans were submitted during the year, 173 were approved, and 38 disapproved. There were also 82 plans submitted in addition for Building Regulation approval only.

All plans were considered by the Council's Planning Committee before submission to the Divisional Planning Committee of the Devon County Council.

I attended most of the monthly meetings of the Divisional Planning Committee.

BOARDING KENNELS

4 premises are registered under the Act and 12 visits were made to them during the year. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

STAFF

I would like to pay tribute to the work of my deputy, Mr. Kerswill, during the year and also to Mr. Dean who has now settled in. I would also like to thank your Clerk, Mr. B. W. Leatt, and your Medical Officer, Dr. E. Williams, for their assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. G. GANE.

